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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A stylus for use as an identity verification device, the stylus being coupled to a processor, comprising:

a stylus body; and,

a sensor coupled to and being located on or within the stylus body, the sensor being adapted to capture a thumbprint of a user as a user thumb touches the sensor coupled to the stylus body.

21. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a reference thumbprint to confirm user identity.

22. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a plurality of reference thumbprints in search of a match.

23. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the processor is contained within the stylus body.

24. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

25. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, including a memory device coupled to the sensor for storing the captured thumbprint.

26. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print.

27. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture the thumbprint and the second print of the user at the same time.

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28. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, including a second sensor coupled to the stylus body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print.

29. (Currently Amended) An identity verification device, comprising:
a stylus having a body;
a sensor coupled to and being located on or within the body, the sensor being adapted to capture a thumbprint of a user as a user thumb touches the stylus body;
a memory device for storing at least one reference print; and,
a processor coupled to the sensor and the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured thumbprint, the processor being adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with the at least one reference print.

30. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with the reference print to confirm the user identity.

31. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

32. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is contained within the stylus body.

33. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is contained within an external system and wherein the stylus is in digital communication with the external system.

34. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

35. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the memory device is adapted to store the captured thumbprint.

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36. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print.

37. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 36, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture the thumbprint and the second print of the user at the same time.

38. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, including a second sensor coupled to the body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print.

39. (Previously Presented) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the stylus is a pen and includes an ink tube.

40. (Currently Amended) A stylus, comprising:
a stylus body;
a sensor coupled to and being located on or within the stylus body, the sensor being adapted to capture a fingerprint of a user as the user grasps the stylus;
a memory device within the stylus body and being adapted to store at least one reference fingerprint; and,
a processor within the stylus body and being coupled to the sensor and the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured fingerprint, the processor being adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference fingerprint.

41. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference print to confirm user identity.

42. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

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43. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

44. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the memory device is adapted to store the captured thumbprint.

45. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print.

46. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, including a second sensor coupled to the body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print.

47. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the stylus is a pen and includes an ink tube.

48. (Currently Amended). A stylus, comprising:
a stylus body;
a sensor coupled to and being located on or within the stylus body, the sensor being adapted to capture a fingerprint of a user as a user finger touches the stylus body;
a memory device within the stylus body, the memory device being adapted to store at least one reference fingerprint; and,
a processor within the stylus body and being coupled to the sensor, the processor being coupled to the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured fingerprint, the processor being adapted to store the captured fingerprint within the memory device, and the processor being adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference fingerprint.

49. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference print to confirm user identity.

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50. (Previously Presented) A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

51. (Previously Presented). A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

52. (New). A stylus for use as an identity verification device, the stylus being coupled to a processor, comprising

a stylus body having a sensor, the sensor being adapted to capture a thumbprint of a user as a user thumb touches the sensor coupled to the stylus body.

53. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is located partially within and partially outside of the stylus body.

54. (New). A device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the sensor is located partially within and outside of the stylus body.

55. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the sensor is located partially within and partially outside of the stylus body.

56. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the sensor is located partially within and partially outside of the stylus body.